



Media Advisory

For Immediate Release

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UDOH Seeks Input on Guidelines for Prescribing Pain Meds

WHAT: As part of its campaign to reduce the number of prescription pain medication overdose deaths in Utah, the Utah Department of Health (UDOH) has developed a draft set of clinical guidelines for prescribing opioids. The department is seeking public input on the guidelines through Nov. 30, 2008.

The UDOH developed the guidelines with help from two multi-disciplinary panels of physicians. The purpose of the guidelines is to provide recommendations and tools for physicians to use when prescribing opioids. The UDOH will publish the guidelines and make them available to all Utah physicians in December once public comments have been considered and a final draft has been completed. Although the guidelines will provide recommendations for best practices, they will not be mandated by the State of Utah. For access to the guidelines and instructions on submitting public comment, please visit: <http://health.utah.gov/prescription>.

In 2007, more Utahns (317) died as a result of prescription pain medication overdoses than died in motor vehicle crashes. Last year, UDOH launched the Use Only as Directed campaign to educate Utahns about the dangers of prescription drug misuse. The goal is to reduce the number of unintentional prescription pain medication overdoses in Utah by 15 percent by 2009. For more information visit www.useonlyasdirected.org.

WHEN: Today through Nov. 30, 2008

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